

## **B. REMARKS**

In the final Office Action mailed on July 11, 2001, Claims 1-6, 10-35, 39-53 and 57-67 were finally rejected and Claims 7-9, 36-38 and 54-56 stood as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. The Board reversed the final rejection of Claims 16-18, 21, 23, 45-47, 50, 52 and 63-65. This amendment rewrites in independent form, including the limitations of all intervening claims, the claims indicated as allowable in the Final Office Action (7-9, 36-38 and 54-56) and the claims subject to the reversal by the Board (16-18, 21, 23, 45-47, 50, 52 and 63-65) as indicated herein. Claims 7, 22, 36, 51 and 54 have been canceled. Hence, Claims 1-6, 8-21, 23-35, 37-50, 52, 53 and 55-67 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims do not add any new matter to this application.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and the issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Edward A. Becker

Reg. No. 37,777

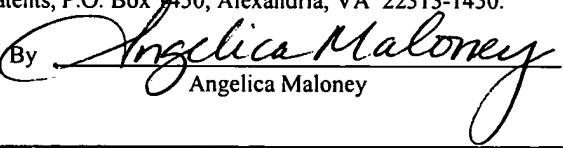
**Date: September 29, 2004**

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

On September 29, 2004 By



Angelica Maloney